

## A NORTH CAROLINIAN CLAIMS THE HONOR ACCORDED TO MORSE.

Julius Lynch Clemmons asserts that he discovered the principle and demonstrated its application—his reasons for his very long silence.

(Correspondence of the Charlotte Observer.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 26.—“What do you object to giving me a brief sketch of your history, and especially of the history of your connection with the invention of the electric telegraph?” So said the Observer correspondent this morning to Mr. Julius Lynch Clemmons.

“Not at all,” was the reply. “I was born in the village of Clemmonsville, Rowan (now Davidson) county, North Carolina, on the first day of December, 1813, at an hour nearly seventy-two years of age. I am now an old man but very well preserved, as you can see. For the last year or two I have been troubled with a slight dyspepsia, but apart from that my health has always been good. Indeed, I can say that very few can say that for fifty-five consecutive years I never lost a meal's victuals by sickness. I am satisfied that, in all my life, I was never confined to my bed so much as ten days by sickness. I begin, however, to feel the effects of age and know that the end is not far distant.

“My father was a merchant, and my boyhood days were spent for the most part behind the counter. At the age of eighteen I was sent to Randolph Macon College, in Virginia. After spending a year and a half in the preparatory department I entered college, and after passing through the regular course, graduated in 1837.

“In the year 1838, when about the age of twenty years, I commenced attending lectures on chemistry, and was forcibly struck with the powers of the galvanic battery, and its connection with electrical currents. In thinking over the matter I was convinced that electricity could be practically used in conveying intelligence between distant points on insulated wires. I announced this belief to my classmates and to illustrate my idea drew a diagram around the walls of my room, exhibiting a wire supported by glass brackets on upright poles, such as are now in use, with a battery at each end and an independent clock work on which to receive messages.

“I attempted frequently to explain this to my own, but was only laughed at for my pains. I was regarded as a visionary, and my project as a dream. I intended that it would work and prophesied that in the near future a man would be sitting in his chamber in New York conversing with his brother in New Orleans as familiarly as if they were seated at his own fireside. Yea, more, that the President of the United States would in the same manner converse with the Emperor of Russia in an instant of time. This of course was regarded by all as the extreme of fanaticism. Only one of my classmates would listen to me with any degree of credulity and that was a young man from North Carolina by the name of Baxter Cligg, who afterwards became somewhat prominent as a Methodist preacher.

“In after years a number of my schoolmates came out with voluntary communication to different newspapers testifying to what I have above stated. Prominent among them was J. W. Cameron, at one time editor of a paper published at Wadesboro, N. C. “Being young and somewhat confident, I did not press my suggestions upon the public attention; but hearing that a gentleman by the name of Page, in Washington City, had become quite eminent as an electrician, I resolved to communicate to him my ideas on the subject of telegraphy by electric current, and to obtain his views on the subject. I therefore wrote to him explaining in detail my views, accompanying the same with diagram, etc., and asking him for his opinion. To his request I received no answer. This failure to answer was rather a disheartening experience, and I thought I would probably my theory was either impractical or its merits would have been appreciated by a man eminent in electrical science.

“I therefore dropped the matter and devoted myself to my studies, saying but little more about the telegraph. I was preparing myself by a collegiate literary course for entering upon my profession as a lawyer and devoted myself exclusively to that purpose.

“Years rolled by and I had almost forgotten the telegraph matter, when in the year 1844 I opened the Washington Globe one morning, and the first paragraph that attracted my attention was an account of the formation of a partnership between Messrs. Morse, Amos Kendall & Smith, to erect an experimental telegraph wire between Baltimore and Washington City, and an application to Congress for pecuniary aid.

“The moment I saw the combination the conviction flashed upon my mind that Page had used my suggestions to him under eleven years before in the furtherance of the Morse project, and when I learned that at the time I wrote to Page in 1838, and for some years afterward, he was an examiner in the patent office, and forbidden by law to take out a patent in his own name, my convictions were confirmed. Indeed, I was so positive of the fact that I wrote a communication to the Washington Globe, publicly charging Page with having availed himself of my suggestions.

“Being thus publicly charged with appropriating my suggestions he was compelled to reply to my communication, and did so by admitting that he had eleven years before received my letter and diagrams, but excused himself for not answering it on the ground that he then thought there was nothing in it.

“In the meantime Morse, Page & Co., having received Congressional aid, proceeded to erect their line between Baltimore and Washington, which proved a success and so linked Morse's name with the project as to give him the boom over everybody else.

“Notwithstanding,” continued Mr. Clemmons, “to place my reputation for veracity in the crucible of public criticism, and caring very little about the matter anyway, I remained silent ever afterwards.

“I should say that the alphabet which I suggested to Mr. Page was precisely the same as that which was used by Morse, and I believe is still used. I have long since ceased to give any attention to telegraphy, but take it for granted that it is now a very different thing from what it was

in the beginning, on account of the numerous improvements resulting from experience.

“It is, in fact, hardly proper to say that the electric telegraph was an invention, or that it originated with any one man. It was a growth, not an invention. It commenced with Valtio and Galvani, a hundred years ago, and has gradually grown up to its present stature. In the years of 1838, '39, '37, much attention was given to the subject, both in Europe and America. Scientists in England, France, Germany and the United States were upon the problem in those years. Dr. Jackson in Boston; Joseph Henry, at Washington; and others were studying the subject, making experiments in a small way. Doubtless the idea of telegraphing by the electric current was original with several different persons, as well as myself. Its practical introduction, however, was due to Morse, and he is entitled to the credit of having first proved its utility. I think he is entitled to the greater honor, for while with others it was mere theory, he put it into practice and conferred thereby its blessings upon the world. I would not pluck a single leaf from the laurel that circled his brow, or drop a word that would reflect upon his memory.”

## POLITICS OF THE WAR.

Curious Story of an Attempt to Form a Conservative Party.

The discussion of the political features of the terms first offered to Gen. Johnston's army and overruled at Washington is likely to lead to the development of some facts which are new. An ex-officer of the volunteer forces, was at Raleigh with Gen. Sherman's army, tells an interesting story of some private discussions among prominent officers, which were mainly confined to those who commanded armies or corps. He says that when the troops of Gen. Sherman formed a junction with Gen. Schofield's army at Goldsboro, a plan for a National Conservative party, which was said to have originated in Washington, was laid before some of the leading officers. Montgomery Blair was represented as the leading spirit at the National Capital.

According to the views which were presented for him through his brother, Gen. Frank Blair, and others, there was a very general dissatisfaction at the North with the radical views held by Secretary Stanton, Secretary Chase, Ben Wade, Zachariah Chandler, Chas. Sumner and others. As to Mr. Lincoln, it was still a question whether he would finally side with the radicals or favor a conservative reconstruction. It was therefore proposed that the prominent officers of the army should unite in an effort to influence the soldiers to favor, so soon as the war ended and the question of reconstruction came up, the organization of a National Conservative party which should ignore all the Radical leaders named and others of their class; which should also exclude the Northern Copperheads as a necessary condition to soldiers' support; which should be made up of war Democrats and Southern politicians and officers, and provide prominent places for all Northern officers who would join the movement. This proposition was receiving much attention at the various headquarters about Goldsboro where the news came of the surrender of Lee. A number of leading officers favored it, and several were found upon sounding them, to be much opposed. It is believed to have prompted the liberal spirit with which Gen. Sherman and when making his terms with Gen. Johnston. The excitement at the North attending the assassination of President Lincoln, and the interpretation put upon the Sherman terms by Secretary Stanton made it impossible to pursue the plan further at that time.

According to the same authority, later in the same year Montgomery Blair and those working with him in the matter revived his scheme, and agents were dispatched to various military headquarters to unfold it. The break of President Johnson with his party was the result, and at the Army-Arm Convention in Philadelphia in August, 1866, the new party was organized upon the identical propositions originally sent down to North Carolina for army discussion. It will be remembered that at that Convention Ferns do Wood and Vallandigham were both compelled to withdraw.

## The New Navy.

The bill prepared by the naval affairs committee of the House for the construction of a navy provides for two sea-going vessels of six thousand tons, with a torpedo outfit, to cost \$2,500,000 each; three protected, double-bottomed cruisers of between 3,500 and 5,000 tons displacement, to have great speed, to cost \$1,500,000 each; four first-class torpedo boats, costing in the aggregate \$400,000; one torpedo cruiser of 800 tons, to cost not more than \$300,000; \$2,000,000 is appropriated towards the completion of the monitors. One of the cruisers is to be built and one of the monitors completed in the navy yards. The rest are to be given out by contract if suitable contracts can be made, otherwise they are to be built by the Government in the yards. Armor plates and part of the machinery may be bought abroad. One million dollars is appropriated for ordnance, to be constructed in the navy yards, and provisions are made for the purchase of necessary plants and tools. The bill is about ready to be reported, but it is still liable to further amendment.

## Was it Cancer?

I have been taking B. B. B. for six or seven weeks for something like cancer on my neck, and I would not take one THOUSAND DOLLARS for the benefit received. I had previously tried various so-called blood remedies, but B. B. B. is the best, the quickest and the cheapest blood purifier I ever used. I refer to any merchant in Griffin, Ga.

Were we so disposed, we could make a great case of cancer cure of the above, but as we do not think that genuine cancer ever existed, we do not propose to humbug the public. The above is perhaps only a case of scrofulous ulcer, which B. B. B. cures more speedily than any remedy. It will cure any so-called cancer in one half the time and one third the money required by any boasted remedy.

## BLOOD BALM CO.

Atlanta, Ga.

Falling One Hundred and Fifty Feet. Last Thursday Alexander Rose, an employe of the Detroit electric light company, ascended the tower at the corner of Gratiot avenue and Mack street to replace the burned-out carbons. He had just reached the platform at the top when he suddenly fell over the railing and came down head foremost to the ground, a distance of 150 feet. His body was horribly mangled, and he lived but a short time after.

## SOME ODD SOUTHERNISMS.

A FEW EXAMPLES OF QUAIN SAYINGS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Our Ridiculous Figures of Speech and how they Look in Print—some of the Idle Fancies of a Philologist.

(S. Parlies in "Dirig.")

Some years ago Richard Grant White wrote a delightfully interesting book on Americanisms. He might well have divided the subject into two parts: Yankeeisms and Southernisms. Absolute correctness in pronunciation, in the formation of sentences, is a most difficult accomplishment, and there be, either North or South, who have reached such a degree of perfection that no exceptions can be taken by "carping critics" to their utterances. In the matter of pronunciation, the times are changing, and one can scarcely keep pace with the innovations being introduced by the leading orthoepists.

The purpose of this paper is, however, to present, in a succinct way, a few of the quaintnesses of pronunciation and construction held to by the Southern people as a class. Among these the first that comes to mind is the custom of omitting the last two letters in such words as "more," "four," "five," "six," "seven," "eight," "nine," "ten," and "eleven." "What o'clock is it?" you ask the Carolinian, and ten to one he tells you it is "half past" or "four" if that happen to be the hour. Another common Southernism is the use of "like as it," or "like" for the words "as it." "She looked like she knew me" is a common expression, or "She looked like as if she'd die." This is very common in Washington, and in all the States south of Mason and Dixon's line.

The word "funny" is frequently used instead of "strange," and sometimes with startling effects. A young Southern girl was visiting us once, and a caller was telling of the death of her mother through swallowing a fish bone. "Oh! wasn't it funny?" exclaimed our visitor at the close of the narrative. "I think you mean strange," said the caller, as soon as she recovered from the astonishment. Our girl friend has never used the word "funny" since!

If you happen to hear anybody say "rye cheer" you may know it is intended to mean "right here." For instance: A South Carolinian will say: "Where was he at last night?" and his fellow-citizen will say, "He staid rye cheer with me." "Djeer" pronounced in one syllable is not a Russian word as might be supposed; it means "do you hear?" and is usually addressed to servants in this form: "You, Jim! Bring in that wood, djeer!"

"To get to go" is essentially a Georgia expression. They say, "Do, don't fail to come to-night," and the reply is, "I've tried to get to go three weeks, now, so I reckon I'll be there to-night." The expression "Do don't" is heard in Georgia and South Carolina, but rarely elsewhere. One of the most laughable things you ever heard is the peculiar pronunciation of the word "about." It is impossible to express the South Carolinian's pronunciation, phonetically. It sounds like about—pronounced very quickly in three syllables: "Quare," for "quar," is another word. The use of "r-c-o" for "presume" is said to have been derived from the Yankees, as was the expression "right smart" for the word "much."

"In imitation of English, perhaps, is the custom of saying 'I've got it' for 'I have it,' and the general use of the word 'got' where it is quite unnecessary. "Obliged," as "I'm obliged to do it" for "I must do it," "he is obliged to go," for "he must go." Ambiguity of expression is too prevalent in Dixie, and too many people sacrifice sense for sound.

Low-country people and the residents of middle South Carolina say "ye-arden" for "garden," and "ye-ward" for "ward," with the hard sound of "y." So, too, with such words as "card," "car" and "cart" into which is introduced the sound of "kee," to take the place of the first consonant, thus: "kee-ard," "kee-art," "kee-art."

The use of delightful for delicious, in such a sentence as: "The ice cream is delightful," is very common. "Pretty" is a word very often misused, for instance: "Isn't this a pretty day?" and this error is a very general one. North Carolinians say the scenery is "pretty"—meaning picturesque; the day is "pretty"—meaning fine; and that a person's manners are "pretty"—meaning well-bred.

"You all," or, as it is abbreviated "y'all," is one of the most ridiculous of all the Southernisms I can call to mind. It usually means two or more persons, but is sometimes used when only one person is meant. For instance a caller on asking her departure says: "Y'all must come to see us." She means the lady, upon whom she is calling, and her husband may call.

The Yankees have quite as many ridiculous figures of speech as those I have mentioned as peculiarly Southern and it will be reserved for another paper to present the oddities of Yankee conversation. In the meantime every true-hearted Southerner who reads these lines will declare that he never used any of these Southernisms, and will be just as honest in his belief as the Charlestonian when he vows that he never says "dis-a-way" for "this way" and "dat-a-way" for "that way."

## Dr. B. H. B. Case.

The case against Dr. Amos N. Bellinger, for the murder of Stephen R. Kelly, a prominent colored Democrat, last fall, was called and continued until the June term of court, on motion of the State's attorney, on the ground of the absence of material witnesses for the prosecution. Dr. Bellinger's counsel made a strong fight for immediate trial, even consenting to accept the evidence of absent witnesses upon the Solicitor's statement, but the motion for continuance was granted and Bellinger was released on bail.

## The Cabinet and the Chinese.

At a Cabinet meeting last week the question of making some reparation to Chinese residents of Rock Springs, Wyoming, for losses sustained by them in the riots there last fall was again considered, and it is probable that the matter will be brought to the attention of Congress with a recommendation that the sufferers be recompensed for their losses.

## ADVICE TO MOTHERS.

MRS. WINDOL'S SOOTHING SYRUP should always be used for colic, teething, etc. It soothes the child, cures the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. Twenty-five cents a bottle. July 14/71

## GENERAL NEWS ITEMS.

Facts of Interest, Gathered from Various Quarters.

—Don Carlos is planning a new revolution in Spain.

—A suicide mania is prevailing throughout the North and West.

—The Pope had a fainting fit last week, the result of overwork.

—A monument to George Peabody is being talked about. He deserves it.

—Frank O. Dave, who died in Boston last week, had a life insurance of \$110,000.

—Two city officials of Cincinnati who were found guilty of malfeasance in office have disappeared.

—The Lewis County Court House, Va., was destroyed by an incendiary fire. All the records were saved.

—During a race between ice boats on the Hudson River a few days ago, a mile a minute was reached.

—The gas company war between the old and the prospective company is still being waged in Augusta.

—Fritz Bar, of Davenport, Ohio, was so affected by the death of his wife that he committed suicide.

—Railroad rates between Chicago and Francisco are being still further cut.

—The Armony Rink in Buffalo, N. Y., with two adjacent blocks, was burnt on Monday.

—Mr. A. Pope has been appointed General Freight Agent of the Norfolk and Western Railroad.

—In Wilkes county, Ga., a little daughter of Mr. Thomas Sisson fell in a spring and was drowned.

—Henry Waterson's condition continues to improve, and he is on his way to recovery.

—Several marine disasters have recently occurred in the South Pacific, and a number of lives are reported lost.

—Three vessels loaded with coal have been lost between Charleston and Philadelphia during the past two months.

—The strike in the Pennsylvania coke region is virtually over and the Hungarian organization has gone to pieces.

—The corner-stone of a Confederate monument was laid at Baton Rouge, La., on Monday, with imposing ceremonies.

—Clarence J. Sears, aged 80, near Ottawa, Ill., had trouble with his wife about religion and killed her with a hand saw.

—The Cigar makers' International Union are taking steps to do away with the manufacture of cabbage leaf and sawdust cigars.

—Elijah Pate, of Dooley county, Ga., a prosperous farmer, aged 74 years, married Miss Bailey, a maiden of 15.

—James McElroy, a desperate moonshiner, has been arrested in Georgia, charged with killing Deputy U. S. Marshal Kellet.

—Dr. Meade Kemper, a prominent young physician of Norfolk, Va., and son of ex-Governor Kemper, died suddenly last week.

—Dr. Lespesset met with a cordial reception at Panama last week, thousands of persons of all nationalities turning out to greet the great canal projector.

—The Western boys are making the Chinamen "go." Sunday night last a party of Celestials were escorted out of the town of Oregon City by kn-klox.

—A fire in Yokohama, Japan, destroyed the Windsor Hotel and several other buildings. Loss \$100,000; insured.

—\$62.50 is the cost of a first-class passenger ticket from New York to San Francisco, at the present "cut" rates.

—There are various and conflicting stories concerning the whereabouts of the missing ex-Sheriff Davidson, of New York.

—The Grand Army of the Republic, department of Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia, held its annual encampment in Atlanta last week.

Ten thousand and culicenses have been destroyed in London at the Dogs' Home since the hydrophobia scare began, a few weeks ago.

—Three thousand strikers at Llanberis, Wales, have resumed work on employers' terms. They have been idle nineteen weeks and are in terrible distress.

—Wesley Elliott, a temperance advocate in Shelbyville, Ill., has been arrested for entering a saloon, turning the faucets of barrels and allowing the liquor to run out.

—Gen. Delgado and his friends, captured on the steamer City of Mexico as supposed filibuster, are detained as prisoners of war and not allowed to confer with legal advisers.

—Several thousand Scotch women have been thrown out of employment by the collapse of the skirt and rubbers industry, due to the American increase of duty on goods of that class.

—A French woman who has gone to 722 balls in order to catch a husband, has caught instead bronchitis, nineteen times, pleurisy three and 120 colds in the head. And still she is not discouraged.

—The loss by the fire in Wilmington, N. C., on Sunday last, is now thought will not exceed \$500,000, about three-fourths covered by insurance. The railroads are all in running order again.

—Smallpox having been declared epidemic in Fort Worth, Texas, the mayor of Dallas issued a proclamation quarantining against that city, and all the towns in North Texas will issue similar proclamations.

—T. R. Hudd, Democrat, of Green Bay, has been elected Congressman from the fifth Congressional district of Wisconsin, to succeed Joseph Rankin, Republican.

—A young man named Mulligan froze to death in Catawba county, N. C., during the recent cold snap while riding along the road on horseback. His face and neck burst and his feet came off.

—Between New York and the Gulf of Mexico there only four natural entrances to harbors where the depth at mean low water is over 16 feet, while the largest ships can draw from 26 to 28 1/2 feet.

—Judge James L. Mitchell, of Nebraska, while addressing a convention of early Iowa lawmakers in Des Moines, Iowa, last Thursday afternoon dropped dead on the floor of the opera-house.

—Two of the sons of Geo. Q. Cannon, the Mormon Elder recently convicted, called Judge Powers to the door of his hotel in Salt Lake City and assaulted him. They were arrested, but one of them escaped.

—John Graham, Jr., the insane negro who was first suspected of being the murderer of the tiny little Beaton boy, has been committed to jail by the ordinary. Graham was brought into Savannah by his father.

—There are said to be less than \$1,000,000 worth of diamonds in America to-day. The most costly one is that belonging to the widow of Gov. E. D. Morgan, of New York. It has been offered for \$50,000, and is a twenty-two carat stone.

—The selection by Mr. Parnell of Capt. O'Shea to represent the Galway constituency seems to have been a mistake. He met with a chilling reception in the House of Commons. Mr. Biggar is disgusted and the breach in the Nationalist ranks has widened.

—Bismarck is driving the Poles out of Germany, and Austria is receiving them with open arms. If this policy is kept up long on both sides, Austria will before long be ready to retrieve the disgrace of Sadowa.

—The official returns of the Montreal health office for the year 1885 have just been issued. The total number of deaths was 7,825, as against 4,358 in 1884. There were 3,164 deaths from smallpox. Of those who died 3,576 were children.

—Birmingham, England, still makes flint-lock muskets for use in the interior of Africa, where percussion caps or any form of fixed ammunition would often be impossible to obtain, while powder can always be made and flints picked up in the desert.

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